

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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IN RE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 LITIGATION

21 MC 101 (AKH)

This Document Relates to: All Cases

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THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND
NEW JERSEY, WTC RETAIL LLC AND THE PORT
AUTHORITY TRANS-HUDSON CORPORATION,

**DELTA AIR LINES, INC.’S
ANSWER TO PORT AUTHORITY’S
FLIGHT 11 COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC., AMR
CORPORATION, UAL CORPORATION, UNITED
AIRLINES, MASSACHUSETTS PORT
AUTHORITY, THE BOEING COMPANY, COLGAN
AIR INC., US AIRWAYS GROUP, INC., US
AIRWAYS, INC., DELTA AIR LINES, INC.,
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, INC., MIDWAY
AIRLINES, HUNTLEIGH USA CORPORATION,
ICTS INTERNATIONAL, N.V., BURNES
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES
CORPORATION, BURNS INTERNATIONAL
SERVICES CORPORATION, PINKERTON’S INC.,
AND SECURITAS AB,

Defendants.

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Defendant, Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”), by its attorneys, Gallagher Gosseen Faller & Crowley, objects to the Complaint of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the “Port Authority”), WTC Retail LLC (“WTCR”) and The Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation (“PATH”) (hereinafter collectively referred to as “The Port Authority”) to the extent that it does not comply with the Order of the Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein, dated March 18, 2008, which transferred The Port Authority’s cross-claims from the 21 MC 97 docket to the 21 MC 101

docket and granted The Port Authority leave to amend its cross-claims “solely to recast them as direct claims.” Subject to and without waiving said objection, Delta sets forth the following as and for its Answer to The Port Authority’s Complaint:

THE PARTIES

First: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraphs numbered “1”, “2”, “3”, misnumbered “3”, “4”, “5”, “6”, “7” and “8” of the Complaint.

Second: Delta admits the allegations set forth in the paragraph numbered “9” of the Complaint.

Third: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraph numbered “10”, “11”, “12”, “13”, “14”, “15” and “16”.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

Fourth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraphs numbered “17” and “18” of the Complaint and respectfully refers all matters of law set forth therein to the Court, except Delta admits that Public Law 107-42, “The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act” established that “[t]he United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all actions brought for any claims resulting from or relating to the terrorist related crashes of September 11, 2001.”

**CLAIM ONE FOR NEGLIGENCE AGAINST
ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING**

Fifth: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "19" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Sixth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "20" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court. (The Complaint did not contain paragraphs 21 or 22)

Seventh: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "23" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta, except admits that Delta was authorized by the United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration to transport passengers for hire in accordance with federal aviation laws and regulations, and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court.

Eighth: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraphs numbered "24", "25", "26" and "27" of the Complaint.

Ninth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "28" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta.

Tenth: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraph numbered "29" of the Complaint.

Eleventh: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraphs numbered "30" and "31" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court.

Twelfth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "32" of the Complaint.

**CLAIM TWO FOR NEGLIGENCE AGAINST
ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING AND
THE SECURITY COMPANY DEFENDANTS**

Thirteenth: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "33" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Fourteenth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "34" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court, except admits that Delta was required to operate its flights in accordance with Federal Aviation laws and regulations, implement security plans and/or procedures required by such regulations.

Fifteenth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraphs numbered "35", "36", "37" and "38" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and refers all matters of law to the Court.

CLAIM THREE BASED ON *RES IPSA LOQUITUR*
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING

Sixteenth: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "39" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Seventeenth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "40" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta.

Eighteenth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraphs numbered "41" and "42" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court.

CLAIM FOUR BASED ON STRICT LIABILITY
AGAINST BOEING, AMERICAN AND AMR

Nineteenth: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "43" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Twentieth: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraphs numbered "44", "45", "46", "47" and "48".

**CLAIM FIVE FOR NEGLIGENT DESIGN AND/OR
MANUFACTURE AGAINST BOEING, AMERICAN AND AMR**

Twenty-first: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "49" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Twenty-second: Delta denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the paragraph numbered "50", "51", "52", "53" and "54" of the Complaint.

CLAIM FOR CONTRIBUTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

Twenty-third: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "55" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Twenty-fourth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "56" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court.

CLAIM FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

Twenty-fifth: Delta repeats and reiterates each and everyone of the foregoing admissions and denials made in response to the paragraphs of the Complaint referred to in the paragraph designated "57" with the same force and effect as if set forth herein at length.

Twenty-sixth: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraph numbered "58" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta.

Twenty-seventh: Delta denies each and every allegation set forth in the paragraphs numbered "59" and "60" of the Complaint insofar as such allegations pertain to Delta and respectfully refers all matters of law to the Court.

ALL COUNTS

Twenty-eighth: Any allegation in the Complaint directed towards Delta not expressly responded to above is denied.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Twenty-ninth: The Port Authority's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirtieth: The Port Authority's alleged damages were caused by the unforeseeable, intervening, and/or superseding criminal acts of third parties who were not under the care,

custody, control, or supervision of Delta; therefore, Delta cannot be held liable for plaintiffs' alleged damages.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-first: The Port Authority's alleged damages were not a reasonably foreseeable consequence of any alleged conduct by Delta; therefore, Delta owed no duty to plaintiffs as a matter of law and cannot be held liable for Port Authority's alleged damages.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-second: The alleged damages complained of were caused by the intentional and/or negligent acts of parties other than Delta and for whom Delta is not responsible; therefore, Delta is not liable to The Port Authority or, in the alternative, Delta's liability to The Port Authority, if any, should be reduced in accordance with applicable law.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-third: The alleged damages complained of were not proximately caused by any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of Delta, its agents, or employees.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-fourth: Delta is not liable to the Port Authority because Delta complied with all applicable government regulations in effect at the time of the events described in the Complaint.

AS AND FOR AN SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-fifth: The Port Authority's claims based on common law or statutory law of the individual States requiring Delta to implement security procedures that are different from or inconsistent with the obligations imposed by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (Public Law 5-726, 72 Stat. 731, formerly codified as 49 U.S.C. §1301 et seq. and now recodified and incorporated as 49 U.S.C. §40101 et seq.) and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are barred by Public Law 107-42, "The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation And Transportation Security Act."

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-sixth: Pursuant to Public Law 107-42 "The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation And Transportation Security Act," recovery by Port Authority, if any, should be reduced by any collateral source, including insurance, payment that has been or will be paid to The Port Authority, in accordance with New York's Civil Practices Law and Rules §4545(c) and applicable state law.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-seventh: Pursuant to Public Law 107-42 "The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act," Delta's liability, if any, must be limited to its proportionate share in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules or in accordance

with such similar or counterpart principles as may be derived by this Court from applicable State law.

AS AND FOR AN TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-eighth: Pursuant to Public Law 107-42, “The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act,” as amended by Public Law 107-71, “The Aviation and Transportation Security Act,” if The Port Authority releases or enter into a covenant not to sue or enforce a judgment with any other persons claimed to be liable for The Port Authority’s damages, the amount recoverable against Delta must be reduced in accordance with the applicable State law.

AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Thirty-ninth: Pursuant to Public Law 107-42, “The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act,” as amended by Public Law 107-71, “The Aviation and Transportation Security Act,” the amount of total damages and/or settlement funds recoverable from Delta is limited to the amount of its available insurance coverage.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fortieth: The Port Authority’s Complaint and all causes of action therein should be dismissed on the ground that plaintiffs have failed to join all necessary and indispensable parties.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-first: Delta’s liability, if any, concerning damages derived from any agreement with the Security Company defendants or any other party for security services as a result of the

events of September 11, 2001 regarding Flight 11 is limited to the contents of such agreement or agreements.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-second: Delta had no statutory, contractual or customary duty to provide passenger security screening at the security checkpoints for American Airlines.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-third: Delta was not responsible for and had no control over security aboard American Flight 11.

AS AND FOR AN SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-fourth: Public Law 107-42, "The Air Transportation Safety And System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act," provides an exclusive federal cause of action for all claims arising from the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. To the extent the Complaint asserts causes of action other than that provided for by this legislation, those causes of action must be dismissed as a matter of law.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-fifth: The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (Public Law 5-726, 72 Stat. 731, formerly codified as 49 U.S.C. §1301 et seq. now recodified and incorporated into 49 U.S.C. §40101 et seq.), and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, establish the uniform and

exclusive standards that airline carriers must follow for aviation safety and security and these federal standards preempt State law standards which The Port Authority alleges that Delta violated. Delta's compliance with these federal standards precludes a finding of liability against it.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-sixth: Any of The Port Authority's claims that relate to rates, routes, and services provided by Delta is expressly preempted by 49 U.S.C. §41713.

AS AND FOR A NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-seventh: The Port Authority's claims based on common law or statutory law of the individual States requiring air carriers to implement security procedures that are different from or inconsistent with the obligations imposed by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (Public Law 5-726, 72 Stat. 731, formerly codified as 49 U.S.C. §1301 et seq. and now recodified and incorporated as 49 U.S.C. §40101 et seq.) and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are barred since compliance with those State laws would constitute an unconstitutional burden on interstate air commerce.

AS AND FOR A TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-eighth: Since Delta was not in actual possession or control of the aircraft at the time of the crash, Delta's liability is limited pursuant to 49 U.S.C.A. §44112 (2002).

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Forty-ninth: Any claims against Delta based on alleged apparent authority should be dismissed because there was no reliance on such authority and no proximate causation between apparent authority and any damages sustained.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fiftieth: Delta cannot be held liable to plaintiffs because no evidence exists that can prove that any hijacker carried weapons or other restricted items aboard Colgan Flight 5930 and there were no reported incidents or disturbances on the Colgan 5930 flight.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-first: Delta cannot be held liable to plaintiffs because any of the hijackers that left Colgan Flight 5930 to then board American Flight 11, had to first leave the secured area and rejoin the public in non-secure areas, then they had to get re-screened through the security checkpoint at Pier A of Terminal B at Logan Airport, or the security checkpoint servicing the American Airlines or United Flights that departed from Pier A of Terminal B.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-second: Delta had neither exclusive control or management over American Airlines Flight 11 or any of the airport security system at Logan International Airport, therefore plaintiffs' claims based upon the theory of res ipsa loquitor fails to state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-third: Plaintiffs' alleged damages were caused by an act of war.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-fourth: Delta incorporates by reference some or all of the affirmative defenses raised by any of the aviation defendants in their Answer to this Complaint.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-fifth: The Port Authority lacks capacity and/or standing to maintain this action.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-sixth: Delta owed no legal duty to the Port Authority.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-seventh: Delta reserves the right to add affirmative defenses as necessary based on information obtained during investigation or discovery.

AS AND FOR A THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-eighth: The Complaint is barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Fifty-ninth: To the extent that the Port Authority seeks to recover for business interruption losses unaccompanied by property damage, all claims based on such losses should be dismissed.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixtieth: The Port Authority's claims are barred by the state secrets doctrine.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixty-first: The Port Authority has failed to mitigate their damages.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixty-second: The Port Authority is barred from recovery in respect of alleged damage to property or improvements incurred as a result of debris, fire, soot, smoke, or water, to the extent the allegedly damaged property or improvements were not adjacent to property or improvements struck by aircraft on September 11, 2001.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixty-third: To the extent the Port Authority's alleged damages were caused or contributed to by the acts or omissions of public authorities or others acting under color of state law, Delta cannot be held liable for the Port Authority's alleged damages.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixty-fourth: The Port Authority is barred from recovery of alleged damages in excess of the lesser of: (a) the cost of restoring the alleged damaged or destroyed property to its original condition; or (b) the diminution in market value caused by Delta's alleged negligence.

AS AND FOR A THIRTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Sixty-fifth: The Port Authority's recovery must be diminished, in whole or in part, as a result of their own negligence and/or other culpable conduct. *See* N.Y.C.P.L.R. §1411.

WHEREFORE Delta demands judgment dismissing the Complaint in its entirety or, alternatively, judgment limiting its liability pursuant to the foregoing, together with costs and disbursements and such other and further relief which this Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: Garden City, New York
June 9, 2008

**GALLAGHER GOSSEEN
FALLER & CROWLEY**

By: 

MICHAEL J. CROWLEY (MC/2821)
JAMES A. GALLAGHER, JR. (JG/7597)
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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
VIA E-MAIL

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NASSAU)

Patricia Doller, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Deponent is not a party to the action, is over 18 years of age and resides at Levittown, New York.

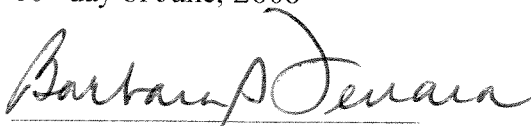
On June 9, 2008 deponent served the within **DELTA AIR LINES, INC.'S ANSWER TO THE PORT AUTHORITY'S FLIGHT 11 COMPLAINT** upon:

1. Keith Harris - Plaintiff's Counsel;
2. Richard A. Williamson - Plaintiff's Counsel & Ground Defendant's Liaison Counsel;
3. Brad Stein - Plaintiff's Counsel & Ground Defendant's Liaison Counsel;
4. Desmond T. Barry - Aviation Defendant's Liaison Counsel;
5. Marc S. Moller - Wrongful Death and Personal Injury Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel;
6. Robert A. Clifford - Property Damage and Business Loss Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel;
7. Beth D. Jacobs - WTC 7 Ground Defendants' Liaison Counsel;
8. Donald A. Migliori - Wrongful Death and Personal Injury Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel;
9. Sarah Normand - U.S. Attorney's Office;
10. Beth Goldman - U.S. Attorney's Office; and

by emailing copies of the papers via the E-Mail addresses designated by said attorneys/parties for that purpose by transmitting a true copy of same by use of the World Wide Web through a designated Internet Provider Service, in accordance with the Court's March 10, 2005 Order.


PATRICIA DOLLER

Sworn to before me this
10th day of June, 2008



Notary Public

BARBARA G. FERRARA
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01FE5057085
Qualified in Nassau County
Commission Expires 3/18/2010